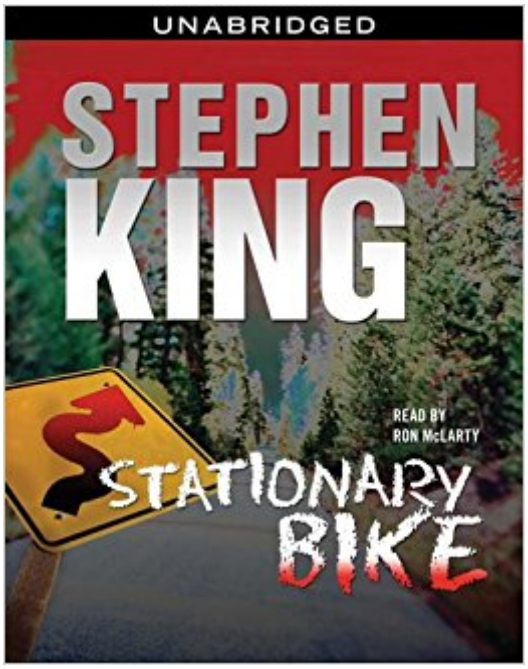
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Stationary Bike



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Synopsis

Climb aboard Stationary Bike -- a streamlined fever dream of a tale, in which an ordinary household object assumes otherworldly powers and a familiar journey takes a terrifying twist. When commercial artist Richard Sifkitz finally gets around to having that physical he'd been putting off for years, and his cholesterol comes back dangerously high, he does what so many thirty-something, junk food-eating couch potatoes have done before him: he buys a stationary bike, and vows to ride it regularly. Unlike many a mid-life exercise convert, however, Richard actually starts to ride his new stationary bike. A lot. Soon he's spending so much time on his bike that he decides to put his artistic talents to use and paint a mural on the wall opposite his stationary bike. But it turns out that Richard's mural is no ordinary picture -- and soon his stationary bike is taking him places he doesn't want to go ...and can't stay away from. A riveting riff on artistic frustration, midlife mortality, and hard-won redemption, Stationary Bike is a thrill ride that could come only from the mind of Stephen King. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio; Unabridged edition (June 6, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743555619

ISBN-13: 978-0743555616

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 5.6 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 42 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,315,439 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #95 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (K) > King, Stephen #358 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Horror #5386 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

Customer Reviews

In classic Stephen King tradition, this audiobook reminds the listener that even something as ordinary as a stationary bike can have a devious nature to it. After a tongue thrashing from his doctor, Richard Sifkitz turns his addiction to fatty foods into an addiction to a fantasy world created around his stationary bike, spending hours a day pedaling away. But as his obsession grows, the lines between fantasy and reality dim and he believes someone or something is trailing him on his path. Ron McLarty, who previously recorded King's Salem's Lot and Faithful, delivers this novella

with an excellent pace and easy disposition. His controlled reading creates a much tenser atmosphere with surprises and plot twists made more shocking without the advance warnings of a more dramatic reading. The jazzy segues between chapters lightens the tone just enough to make the listener feel uncertain about where King is taking this story. King's writing style is quite agreeable to the audio format, making for an enjoyable although slightly dark tale. This novella was published in the anthology Borderlands 5(Reviews, Jan. 19, 2004). (June) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"'As artful as anything he has ever written.' - Booklist" --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

It was excellent

All of Stephen King's books are great but I thought this was to be a new item and it was used and not in very good packaging. After just looking at the discs I see that disc one is fairly scratched. I have not listened to it yet but hope it is clear.

I'm a Stephen King fan, but I was disappointed with this audio book. I've never purchased an audio book before, but this was the only format for this "novel." I'm not sure if I just couldn't really get into the story because I listened to it while I was driving (and, therefore, was too busy concentrating on driving), or because the story itself just wasn't all that interesting. It is a 2-disc set, and the story seemed very short. I am giving the audio book to my brother, who is blind. Maybe he will like it better than I did.

Stephen King has always been known for the strange & this story is no exception. I started listening to Stationary bike doing workout s on my elliptical. Not to ruin the story let me just say I am very glad its an elliptical I'm riding and not a stationary bike! A must read for Stephen King fans.

Great. Always want more of the King stuff.

Stephen King is aging. Nothing new under the sun, or as for that under the sky. We all do. This story contains patterns we know because we have already met them. Sometimes they come back. Though it was a railroad and a tunnel. Stand By Me. The attraction of the railroad crossing the valley

and the woods. Rose madder. Though it was a painting leading into some old Greek temple with a minotaur. And it is not the only living painting in Stephen King's fiction: there is another one that depicts some criminal in a car going north. Here it is a painting too but leading to a road across the woods of upstate New York. Pet Semetary. Though here, it is neither a train, nor a car, nor a truck, though there is a truck somewhere menacing the cyclist. Because here it is a bike, what's more a home trainer he calls a stationary bike, that goes up the road into the painting, into Canada. The characters he meets there are coming back from his youth, his high-school time. But this time it is not to settle accounts that had needed settling for a long time. This story is not triggered by going back to the place where he grew up, or falling in love with an escaping beaten wife on the run. This time it is cholesterol and overweight that trigger the story in the mind of the main character. It is his middle life crisis at the age of 38. It is his desire to escape from the decaying rotting situation he is running head first into, a serious medical situation he is creating for and by himself that makes him settle accounts with the world, with life. And the character more or less finds the wise road to sanity: just get a little of all you like, but be moderate about everything, and don't forget to get a rest. And to make sure we get the message, he tells us several times that in spite of what the Hindus may think, we only have one life. So let's enjoy it as much as possible, and yet at the same time let's also try to keep it as long and as enjoyable as possible. His main character must be as old as King's children. So he is moving on from himself and his own fears he used to use to make us die of fright, to the fear he may feel for the next generation, his next generation behind him, as if he were to leave this world tonight. He's sure aging and what he is writing today has the finer grain of a fabric that has been worn for a long time and stroked if not caressed by many hands passing by. One Stephen King is dead: he probably died with the Crimson King at the end of the Dark Tower saga. Long live the new Stephen King: he was probably born on some Maine road and in some Maine hospital after he was rammed down into the macadam and the ditch beyond the shoulder of the road by some careless driver. Note this novella can only be found in CD form. Stephen King's literature is written to be enjoyed through your ears. Stephen King writes for the radio, and it is well-known he has always loved the radio medium.Dr Jacques COULARDEAU, University Paris Dauphine & University Paris 1 PanthÃƒÂ©on Sorbonne

Not his best.

There are two things that I look for in an audio book. First, is whether it can capture my mind so I am taken into the story like I was part of it. Second, is how much of the story I can picture months after I

heard it. This book accomplished both. I felt like I was on that road experiencing the action with the rider.Reason why it did not receive 5 stars are because it was a very short ride and I felt the end did not live up to my expectations.

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